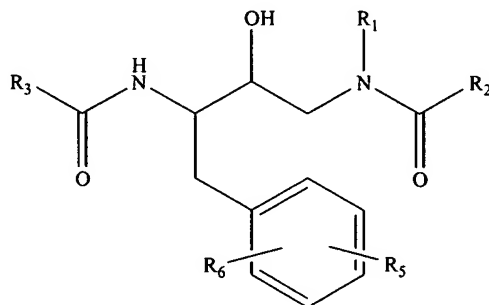


Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure, which begins at page 83, line 5, with the following rewritten abstract:

The present invention relates to (i) non-peptide aspartyl protease inhibitors; (ii) methods for modulating the processing of an amyloid precursor protein (APP); (iii) methods for modulating the processing of a tau protein (τ -protein); and (iv) methods for treating neurodegenerative diseases. For instance, in one embodiment, the present invention provides a method for modulating the processing of an amyloid precursor protein (APP), the method comprising contacting a composition containing the APP with an aspartyl protease inhibitor having the formula:



wherein:

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are members independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, substituted aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, substituted heteroarylalkyl, heterocycles, substituted heterocycles, heterocyclicalkyl and substituted heterocyclicalkyl; and R₅ and R₆ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, arylalkyl, substituted arylalkyl, aryloxyalkyl and substituted aryloxyalkyl; or R₅ and R₆ and the carbons to which they are bound join to form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic fused ring system having a total of 9- or 10-ring atoms within the fused ring system.